

Ambassador Robert A. Bradtke

Ambassador Robert Bradtke serves as Senior Advisor for Partner Engagement on Syria Foreign Fighters. He is responsible for leading Department of State and inter-agency efforts in engaging with foreign partners to prevent and interdict foreign extremist travel to Syria. Mr. Bradtke brings to this position in the Bureau of Counterterrorism more than forty years of experience in dealing with foreign policy and national security issues, including service in a series of senior positions in the State Department and on the National Security Council staff.

A career Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Bradtke joined the State Department in 1973. His first overseas assignments were Georgetown, Guyana and Zagreb, Yugoslavia. Returning to Washington in 1978, he served in the Office of Eastern European Affairs and as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, working in the offices of Senator Charles Mathias and then-Congressman Dick Cheney. In 1983, he was posted to Moscow and then to Bonn. From 1990 to 1994, Mr. Bradtke worked in the Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs, becoming Deputy Assistant Secretary in 1992.

In August 1994, Secretary of State Warren Christopher selected Mr. Bradtke as his Executive Assistant. Upon completing that assignment in 1996, Mr. Bradtke served for three years as Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in London. In July 1999, President Clinton appointed Mr. Bradtke as Executive Secretary of the National Security Council. He remained in that position under President Bush, until August 2001. From September 2001 through 2005, Mr. Bradtke served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, responsible for European security issues. From 2006 to 2009, he was the United States Ambassador to Croatia. Following his retirement in 2009, he was asked by Secretary Clinton to serve as the United States Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group. He worked in that capacity for more than three years as a mediator assisting the parties to find a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In 2013, he served as head of the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Human Dimension meeting.

A native of Chicago, Mr. Bradtke completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Notre Dame, including spending a year in the University's foreign studies program in Angers, France. He did graduate work at the Bologna Center of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and at the University of Virginia. He has three times been the recipient of the Department of State's Superior Honor Award, and in 2001 and 2009 received Presidential Meritorious Service Awards from President Bush and President Obama for sustained superior accomplishment in the conduct of foreign policy and public service.